CLEAN COPY OF AMENDED CLAIMS

CLAIMS

I Claim:

1. (Amended) A method for scheduling independent and dependant jobs and/or work consistent with an entity's strategic objective, wherein said method comprises the steps of:

    a. defining a plurality of strategic objectives;

    b. prioritizing said strategic objectives;

    c. selecting the primary strategic objective from said prioritized strategic objectives;

    d. listing a plurality of measures for said primary strategic objective;

    e. selecting one of said measures from said list of a plurality of measures to be the primary strategic objective measure;

    f. listing a plurality of measures to be used for scheduling said jobs and/or work consistent with said primary strategic objective measure;

    g. selecting a primary measure for said scheduling of said jobs and/or work consistent with said primary strategic objective measure from said listing of said plurality of measures to be used for scheduling said jobs and/or work;

    h. listing a plurality of constraints categories for scheduling said jobs and/or work;

    i. selecting a constraint category from said list of a plurality of constraint categories by which said jobs and/or work will be scheduled;

    j. listing a plurality of constraints within said selected constraint category and prioritizing the order of said constraints within said selected constraint category to schedule said jobs and/or work by;

    k. using said primary measure for said scheduling of said jobs and/or work, calculate said work schedule measure for each said job and/or work in the work queue for the first said prioritized constraint within said selected constraint category;

    l. prioritizing said calculated work schedule measures in (k) above by largest work schedule measure first for said first prioritized constraint;

m. scheduling all of said independent jobs and/or work by said prioritized calculated work schedule measures, then scheduling all of said dependant jobs and/or work by said prioritized calculated work schedule measures; and

n. repeating steps k through m for each said prioritized constraints until all of said prioritized constraints and all of said jobs and/or work have been scheduled.

2. (Amended) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said method of prioritizing the constraints in a constraint category comprises the additional steps of:

a. as an independent and/or dependant job and/or work is scheduled, removing said scheduled job and/or work from said work queue; and

b. adding said calculated work schedule measure from said scheduled independent and/or dependant job and/or work to each said independent and/or dependant jobs and/or work remaining in said work queue.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Amended) An apparatus for scheduling work consistent with an entity's strategic objective, wherein said apparatus includes:

a. a memory that stores computer-readable code, said memory containing:

i. a first measure for said entity's strategic objective;

ii. a listing of all of the independent and dependant work in said entity's work queue;

iii. a second measure for scheduling said independent and dependant work

iv. a prioritized listing of constraints for said independent and dependant work; and

iv. said entity's Management Information System (MIS);

    b. a processor operatively coupled to said memory, said processor configured to
implement said computer-readable code, said code configured to:

        i. calculate the product of said first measure and constraints for each said
constraint for the planning period;

        ii. prioritize said calculated products of said first measure and said constraints
by largest value first;

        iii. calculate the work schedule measure as the product of said second measure
and the list of the independent and dependant work for each job and/or work
in the work queue for said prioritized products of said constraints;

        iv. schedule all said independent jobs;

        v. sort said dependant jobs and/or work of said largest value of said prioritized
calculated product of said first measure and said constraints based upon said work
schedule measures with said jobs and/or work having the largest said product of
said second measure and the list of the independent and dependant work first;

        vi. scheduled said dependant jobs and/or work sorted in step v above in
the order sorted in v above; and

        vii. repeating steps i through vi until all said constraints and all said
jobs and/or work in said work queue has been scheduled for the planning
period.

6. (Amended) An apparatus as recited in claim 5, wherein the said apparatus includes a
said processor operatively coupled to said memory, said processor configured to
implement said computer-readable code, said code configured to:

    a. as an independent and/or dependant job and/or work is scheduled, remove said
independent and/or dependant scheduled job and/or work from the said work queue;
and

    b. add said calculated work schedule measure of said scheduled job and/or work to
said calculated work schedule measure of each said independent and/or dependant
jobs and/or work remaining in said work queue.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Amended) A computer-readable medium encoded with a computer program for determining the sequence for scheduling activities or work in the work queue that is consistent with and supportive of the entity's primary strategic objective, wherein said computer program comprises:

    a. a first measure for said entity's primary strategic objective;

    b. a listing of all of the independent and dependant activities or work in said entity's work queue;

    c. a second measure for scheduling said independent and dependant activities or work;

    d. a prioritized listing of constraints for said independent and dependant activities or work;

    e. said entity's Management Information System (MIS);

    f. the program code to calculation the product of said first measure and said constraints for the planning period;

    g. the program code to prioritize said product of said first measure and said constraints by largest said product first for scheduling work by;

    h. the program code to calculate the work schedule measure as the product of said second measure and the list of said independent and/or dependant work for each said activity or work in the work queue for said prioritized products of said constraints;

    i. the program code to schedule all of said independent activities or work;

    j. the program code to sort said dependant activities or work by said largest value of said prioritized calculated product of said first measure and said constraints based upon said work schedule measures with said activities or work having the largest

said product of said second measure and the list of said independent and

dependant activities or work first;

k. the program code to schedule said dependant activities or work sorted in step j

above in the order sorted in step j above; and

l. repeating steps f through k for each said constraints until all said

constraints and all said activities or work in said work queue have been

scheduled for the planning period.

10. (Amended) A computer program as recited in claim 9, wherein the computer

program further:

a. the computer code to said independent or dependant activity or work from said

work queue once said independent or dependant activity or work is scheduled;

and

b. the computer code to add said work schedule measure of said scheduled activity

and/or work to said calculated work schedule measure of each said activities

and/or work remaining in said work queue.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)